

Exhibit A

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Democratic Organization*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

CHRISTINE CONFORTI, ARATI
KREIBICH, MICO LUCIDE, JOSEPH
MARCHICA, KEVIN MCMILLAN,
ZINOVIA SPEZAKIS, and NEW
JERSEY WORKING FAMILIES
ALLIANCE, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CHRISTINE GIORDANO HANLON, in
her official capacity as
Monmouth County Clerk, SCOTT
M. COLABELLA, in his official
capacity as Ocean County
Clerk, PAULA SOLLAMI COVELLO,
in her official capacity as
Mercer County Clerk, JOHN S.
HOGAN, in his official
capacity as Bergen County
Clerk, EDWARD P. MCGETTIGAN,
in his official capacity as
Atlantic County Clerk,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 3:20-cv-08267-ZNQ-TJB

**INTERVENOR MCDO ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT & SEPARATE DEFENSES
WITH JURY DEMAND**

Intervenor Middlesex County Democratic Organization (the
"MCDO"), by way of Answer to Plaintiffs First Amended Complaint,
says:

NATURE OF CASE

1. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

2. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

3. The MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 3. The City leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

4. The MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 4. The City leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

5. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

6. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

7. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

8. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

9. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

10. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

11. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

12. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

13. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

15. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

16. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

17. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

18. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

PARTIES

Plaintiffs

Christine Conforti: Congressional Candidate in 2020 Primary and Future Democratic Candidate

19. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 19. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

20. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 20. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

21. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 21. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

22. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 22. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

23. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegation in Paragraph 23. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

Arati Kreibich: Congressional Candidate in 2020 Primary

24. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 24. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

25. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 25. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

26. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 26. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

27. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 27. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

Mico Lucide:

28. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 28. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

29. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 29. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

30. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 30. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

31. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 31. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

32. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 32. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

Joseph Marchica:

33. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 33. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

34. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

35. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 35. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

36. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 36. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

Kevin McMillan:

37. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 37. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

38. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 38. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

39. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 39. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

40. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 40. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

41. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 41. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

42. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 42. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

43. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 43. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

Zinovia Spezakis:

44. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 44. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

45. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 45. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

46. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 46. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

47. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 47. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

New Jersey Working Families Alliance, Inc.:

48. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 48. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

49. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 49. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

50. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 50. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

51. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 51. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

52. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 52. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

53. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 53. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

54. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 54. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

55. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

56. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

Defendants

57. Admitted.

58. Admitted.

59. Admitted.

60. Admitted.

61. Admitted.

62. Admitted.

63. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

64. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 64. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

65. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 65. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND LAW

A. Basic Ballot Layout

66. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

67. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

68. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 68. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

B. Pivot Point

69. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

70. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 70. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

71. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 71. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

72. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

C. Bracketing

73. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

74. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 74 as the law speaks for itself.

75. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 75 as the law speaks for itself.

D. Ballot Position

76. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 76 as the law speaks for itself.

77. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 77 as the law speaks for itself.

78. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 78 as the law speaks for itself.

79. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 79 as the law speaks for itself.

80. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

81. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

E. United States Senate and Gubernatorial Candidates

82. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 82 as the law speaks for itself.

83. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

84. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

85. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

F. Arbitrary Criteria for Ballot Advantage and Varying Standards of County Clerks

86. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

87. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

88. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

89. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 89. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

G. Position Bias/Primacy Effect and Other Poor Ballot Design Features

90. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

91. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

92. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 92. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

93. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 93. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

94. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 94. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

95. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

96. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 96. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

97. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

98. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

99. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

100. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

H. Conforti Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement

101. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 101. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

102. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 102. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

a. Conforti's Monmouth County Ballot Draw and Ballot Placement

103. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 103. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

104. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 104. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

105. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 105. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

106. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 106. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

107. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 107. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

108. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 108. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

b. Conforti's Ocean County Ballot Draw and Ballot Placement

109. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 109. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

110. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 110. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

111. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 111. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

112. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 112. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

113. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 113. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

c. Conforti's Mercer County Ballot Draw and Ballot Placement

114. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 114. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

115. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 115. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

116. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 116. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

117. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 117. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

I. Kreibich Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement

118. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 118. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

119. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 119. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

120. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 120. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

121. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 121. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

122. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 122. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

123. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 123. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

124. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 124. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

125. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 125. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

J. Atlantic County Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement and Lucide's Upcoming Primary

126. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 126. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

127. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 127. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

128. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 128. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

129. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 129. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

130. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 130. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

131. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 131. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

K. Marchica Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement

132. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 132. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

133. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 133. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

134. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 134. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

135. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 135. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

136. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 136. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

137. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 137. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

138. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 138. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

139. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 139. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

140. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 140. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

141. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 141. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

L. McMillian Ballot Draw/Ballot Position

142. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 142. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

143. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 143. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

144. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 144. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

145. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 145. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

146. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 146. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

147. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 147. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

148. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 148. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

149. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 149. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

150. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 150. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

151. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 151. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

M. Bergen and Hudson County Ballot Draws/Ballot Placement and Spezakis' Upcoming Primary

152. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 152. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

153. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 153. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

a. Bergen County Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement

154. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 154. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

155. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 155. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

156. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 156. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

157. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 157. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

158. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 158. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

159. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 159. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

160. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 160. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

b. Hudson County Ballot Draw/Ballot Placement

161. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 161. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

162. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 162. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

163. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 163. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

164. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 164. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

165. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 165. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

166. MCDO is without knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 166. The MCDO leaves Plaintiffs to its proofs.

N. NJWF

167. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

U.S. Const. Amend. I and XIV, 42 U.S.C. § 1983

**Violation of Plaintiffs' First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights
Under Federal Constitution (Right to Vote/Vote Dilution)**

168. The MCDO repeats and realleges the answers to Paragraphs 1-167 as if fully set forth at length herein.

169. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

170. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

171. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

172. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

173. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

174. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

175. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

176. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

177. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

178. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

179. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

180. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

181. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

182. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

WHEREFORE, the MCDO demands judgment dismissing Plaintiffs Complaint with prejudice, awarding MCDO attorney fees, costs, and any other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

COUNT II

U.S. Const. Amend. I and XIV, 42 U.S.C. § 1983

Violation of Plaintiffs' First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights Under Federal Constitution (Equal Protection)

183. The MCDO repeats and realleges the answers to Paragraphs 1-182 as if fully set forth at length herein.

184. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

185. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

186. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

187. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

188. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

189. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

190. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

191. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

192. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

193. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

194. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

WHEREFORE, the MCDO demands judgment dismissing Plaintiffs

Complaint with prejudice, awarding MCDO attorney fees, costs, and any other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

COUNT III

U.S. Const. Amend. I and XIV, 42 U.S.C. § 1983

**Violation of Plaintiffs' First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights
Under Federal Constitution (Freedom of Association)**

195. The MCDO repeats and realleges the answers to Paragraphs 1-194 as if fully set forth at length herein.

196. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

197. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

198. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

199. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

200. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

201. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

202. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

203. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

204. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

205. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

206. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

207. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

208. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

WHEREFORE, the MCDO demands judgment dismissing Plaintiffs

Complaint with prejudice, awarding MCDO attorney fees, costs, and any other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

COUNT IV

U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4, cl. 1, 42 U.S.C. § 1983

Violation of Elections Clause Under Federal Constitution

209. The MCDO repeats and realleges the answers to Paragraphs 1-208 as if fully set forth at length herein.

210. MCDO neither admits nor denies the allegations in Paragraph 210 as the law speaks for itself.

211. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

212. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

213. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

214. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

215. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

216. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

217. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

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219. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

220. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

221. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

WHEREFORE, the MCDO demands judgment dismissing Plaintiffs Complaint with prejudice, awarding MCDO attorney fees, costs, and any other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

COUNT V

42 U.S.C. § 1983

Violation of Civil Rights Act

222. The MCDO repeats and realleges the answers to Paragraphs 1-221 as if fully set forth at length herein.

223. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

224. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

225. MCDO makes no response as the allegations are argumentative and may amount to legal conclusions. To the extent the allegations are construed as facts, MCDO denies same.

WHEREFORE, the MCDO demands judgment dismissing Plaintiffs Complaint with prejudice, awarding MCDO attorney fees, costs, and any other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

SEPARATE DEFENSES

FIRST SEPARATE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs First Amended Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND SEPARATE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs claims are barred by the doctrines of laches, estoppel and waiver.

THIRD SEPARATE DEFENSE

The relief sought by Plaintiffs is barred by public policy.

FOURTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs claims, if any, are barred by the Doctrines of Collateral Estoppel, Res Judicata and other issue or claim preclusion doctrines.

FIFTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs First Amended Complaint fails to name an indispensable party.

SIXTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

The relief sought by Plaintiffs is barred by the applicable statutes of limitation.

SEVENTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs failed to exhaust all available remedies.

EIGHTH SEPARATE DEFENSE

A disposition in Plaintiffs' favor will harm and/or impair MCDO's constitutionally protected rights under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The MCDO reserves all rights related to their ability to assert additional affirmative defenses based on any and all other issues, including but not limited to, jurisdictional issues.

JURY DEMAND

The MCDO hereby demands a trial by jury as to all issues contained therein.

RULE 11.2 CERTIFICATION

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that the within matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or of a pending arbitration or administrative proceeding and that, to the best of counsel's knowledge, there is no other party who should be joined in this action.

McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC
Attorneys for Middlesex County
Democratic Organization

By: /s/ William W. Northgrave
William W. Northgrave

Dated: August 30, 2022